

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 12385 180231Z

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ACTION AGR-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7565

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

UNCLAS HONG KONG 12385

FOR: AGRICULTURE, FAS, FCA, COTTON DIVISION

FROM: AGRICULTURAL OFFICER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, CH, EEWT

SUBJECT: JAPAN COTTON PURCHASING TEAM TO PRC

REF: TOFAS 98 (HONG KONG 5937

1. ACCORDING UPI RELEASE IN JULY 17 HONG KONG STANDARD, TEAM OF NINE
LEADING JAPANESE COTTON SPINNERS PLAN VISIT PRC NEXT WEEK TO NEGOTIATE

WITH CHINA NATIONAL TEXTILES IMPORT AND EXPORT CORPORATION FOR
PURCHASE OF RAW COTTON.

2. COMMENT: VISIT APPEARS TO BE LOGICAL DEVELOPMENT IN VIEW OF
CHINA'S GOOD COTTON HARVESTS IN 1973 AND 1974 COUPLED WITH REDUCED
OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPORT OF COTTON TEXTILES TO TRADITIONAL MARKETS
DURING CURRENT RECESSION, A COMBINATION WHICH LED TO CHINA'S ENTRY INTO

HONG KONG'S RAW COTTON IMPORT MARKET IN NOVEMBER 1974 (SEE REFTEL).
CHINA HAS CONTINUED SHIPMENTS TO HONG KONG, REACHING 33.9 MILLION
POUNDS IN FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF CY 1975, WITH VALUE OF HK\$85.7 MILLION

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PAGE 02 HONG K 12385 180231Z

(APPROX. US\$17.1 MILLION), WHICH HAS MOVED CHINA INTO SECOND PLACE

WITH 15.7 PERCENT
OF MAREKT (AFTER PAKISTAN BUT WELL AHEAD OF TANGAYIKA AND U.S.).

3. AMONG OBVIOUS ADVANTAGES FOR JAPANESE IN PURCHASING PRC
COTTON WOULD BE LOWER FREIGHT RATES (LOWER THAN FROM U.S.) AND
REDUCTION OF TRADE IMBALANCE WHICH CURRENTLY HIGHLY UNFAVORABLE
TO CHINA.

4. INITIAL IMPRESSION OF CHINA'S 1975 COTTON CROP IS THAT
UNFAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS IN EARLY PART OF GROWING SEASON
(I.E., UNUSUALLY DRY IN NORTH AND EXCESSIVELY WET IN SOUTH)
PROBABLY HAVE AFFECTED YEILDS. WITH PLANTED AREA AT ABOUT SAME LEVEL
AS
LAST YEAR (APPROX. 5.2 MILLION HECTARES), DOUBTFUL THAT 1975
COTTON HARVEST WILL EXCEED THAT OF 1974.
CROSS

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